

ENGLISH 1010 – Composition and Rhetoric I

This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

Instructor: Mr. Thomas Reynolds

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Phone: TBA—My new office phone has not yet been connected!

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday: 8:15-9:30 and 10:45-11:45 AND Wednesday: 8:15-11:45

Online Office Hours: Monday/Friday: 8:30-9:30

Required Text:

Faigley, Lester. *Writing: A Guide for College and Beyond*. 2nd Edition. New York: Pearson/Longman, 2010.

Course Description: This course addresses the following areas: practice in writing college-level essays; review of writing processes, essay strategies, and arrangement; review of basic conventions of written language; introduction to reading and responding to college-level essays.

Goals:

To read, write, and think critically.

To write with consideration of audience, tone, and style.

To employ writing processes which involve reflection, invention, revision, and editing.

To develop editing and writing skills

To construct and evaluate successful and logical arguments

To write and speak Standard English when expressing ideas and arguments

Objectives:

Students will read and respond to a number of print and/or multi-media materials.

Students will write well-developed essays which illustrate reflection, critical thinking, and analysis of issues addressed.

Students will draft, revise, edit, and polish their work so that they submit high quality pieces for review.

Students will construct and evaluate arguments which avoid logical fallacies and emotional appeals.

Students will write and speak using Standard English to express their thoughts in peer review and to develop their arguments in essays.

Assignments: There will be three, formal, out-of-class essays. Total word count for these essays is 2,250 to 3,500 words. Additionally, students will write frequent writing assignments, engage in discussion board assignments, and take quizzes.

Grading:

Discussion Boards (15 @ 10 pts.)	150 pts.	Throughout the class
Journals (10 @ 15 pts.)	150 pts.	Throughout the class
Short Essays (8 @ 50 pts.)	400 pts.	Throughout the class
Midterm Exam	50 pts.	Monday, October 12
Long Essay	100 pts.	Monday, November 30
Portfolio	100 pts.	Monday, December 14
Final Exam	50 pts.	Monday, December 14

Students must complete all major assignments to receive a passing grade in the course (shown in bold above).

Final grades are non-negotiable and are based strictly on the student's earned points: 900-1000=A, 800-899=B, 700-799=C, 600-699=D, 000=599=F.

All students enrolled in English 1010 must earn a grade of C or better to enroll in English 1020.

Attendance: All students are expected to log on at least twice weekly and to keep up with all assignments and readings. If a student fails to log on for any reason, that student is still responsible for all work on the syllabus and/or added through announcements. Students may have no more than **two** weeks without logging on (excused or unexcused) in this class without adversely affecting their grades. After the student has missed more than the

allowed absences, the instructor will deduct 50 points from the student's final grade for each additional week missed. **A student may be dropped from the class if he or she fails to log on for two consecutive weeks.** Staying current is the student's responsibility. Should a student need to miss class, he or she should consult with the instructor about what will be missed and make all reasonable effort to submit the assignments before the absence. Students are permitted, but not required, to log onto the course during the weekends.

Late and Make-up Work: Students are expected to complete all work on time. All assignments are due by on the Monday following the assignment, by **midnight**, unless otherwise indicated. **One letter grade (10%) will be deducted for each day that an assignment is late, including weekends.** Make-up work is subject to the late penalty. **No late work will be accepted after midnight on Monday, December 14.**

Incomplete Policy: It is this instructor's policy to only give Incompletes (grade of "I") in cases of documented emergencies. Should a student find him/herself unable to complete the coursework because of an emergency, he/she should contact the instructor before the semester has ended to discuss possible options for completing the course. Incompletes will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and will depend upon the instructor's discretion.

Students with Disabilities: It is the policy of NSU to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal law, state law, and the University's commitment to equal educational opportunities. Any student with a disability who needs accommodations, for example in seating placement or in arrangements for examinations, should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Support, which is located in Kyser Hall, Room 239, telephone (318)357-4460 or TTD (318)357-4393.

Essay Format: All final copies of formal work for this class should follow MLA guidelines as will be discussed in class and should be saved as Microsoft Word files, be double-spaced, and have numbered pages. For extra safety make sure to save a copy of final versions for your own files.

Grading Guidelines – Journals: Journals allow you to respond to readings and practice critical reading and writing skills for the formal essays. This writing is designed to be personal in that it will be your voice, your ideas, and your interests. It is not, however, designed to be a forum for intimate details that you would not normally share with new acquaintances. Journals are graded on completeness and depth of engagement and are subject to the late work policy above.

Grading Guidelines – Discussion Boards: Discussion boards give you a chance to express your ideas about the topics we cover in class and view and respond to other people's ideas, as well. Discussion Boards are graded on participation and the depth of thought expressed in each submission, and they will receive numerical grades only. Discussion boards may not be completed after the final due date for each.

Grading Guidelines – Reading and Grammar Quizzes: Reading quizzes assess your comprehension of the required reading assignments. They consist of multiple choice and short answer questions and serve to review the major concepts of the course readings. Quiz grades are based on correctness and are subject to the late work policy above.

Grading Guidelines – Formal Essays: The formal essays allow you to work with a variety of rhetorical situations. Essay writing is designed to be academic in that the format, organization, and conventions of your writing should be highly formal. However, it is designed to allow you to write about topics in which you have some interest. Because essay writing is formal, your essay should not focus on anything that might be inappropriate for the specified audience or an academic environment. All essays will receive instructor comments and a numerical grade and are subject to the late work policy above.

Grading Guidelines – Examinations: You will take two examinations for this course. You will need to have a constant Internet connection that is stable for two hours when you take the exams. Exams will receive numerical grades and brief comments from the teacher and are subject to the late work policy above.

Office Hours: Students should feel free to discuss problems and/or progress with their instructor. If the posted office hours are not convenient then make an appointment to meet with the instructor. The instructor will inform students in advance of times when he will not be in and will make every reasonable effort to accommodate student

needs. You should feel free to call and/or email during my office hours (or anytime, and I will get back to you). During regular office hours, I will be in my physical, on-campus office: 316 D Kyser Hall. During online office hours, I will work from home and be available through the Office Hours feature in Blackboard.

Use of the Electronic Classrooms: The class will meet in an electronic environment through Blackboard. The use of university-supported computer sites to interact with inappropriate sites on the Internet or to distribute inappropriate material is prohibited and can lead to serious consequences. The department and the university accept no responsibility for the introduction of viruses to your disks or home computers. **Computer, disk, and/or printer problems are not excuses for late papers.**

Classroom Civility Statement: Each Northwestern State University student is encouraged to help create an environment that promotes learning, dignity, and mutual respect for everyone in the learning environment. Students who speak at inappropriate times, take frequent breaks, interrupt the class by coming to class late or leaving early, engage in loud or distracting behaviors, use cell phones or pagers (other noise-making devices like watches with alarms), listen to headphones/CDs, play with computers or hand held games, use inappropriate language, are verbally abusive, display defiance or disrespect to others, or behave aggressively toward others during the class period may be asked to leave the class and subjected to disciplinary action under the Northwestern State University Student Code of Conduct and Sanctions (Article VII Sanctions). The instructor of a course may deem additional behaviors or actions inappropriate; these action or behaviors will be outlined in the course syllabus. Copies of the infractions and sanctions are available on the NSU web site at <http://www.nsula.edu/studenthandbook/page100.htm>.

Academic Honor Code: Academic dishonesty is defined as the following: 1) acquiring or using a published test bank, 2) copying from another student's test, paper or computer file, 3) using unauthorized materials during a test, 4) collaborating during a test with any other person by giving or receiving information without authority, 5) stealing, buying, or otherwise obtaining non-administered or unauthorized tests, 6) selling or giving away non-administered or unauthorized tests, 7) bribing anyone to obtain information about a test, 8) substituting for another student or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a test, 9) submitting as your own, in fulfillment of academic requirements, any work prepared totally or in part by another, 10) supplying to another student any theme, report, or other work for use in fulfilling academic requirements, and 11) plagiarism, defined as the use of another person's work and the unacknowledged incorporations of that work in one's own work that is offered for credit. Academic dishonesty will result in one of the following disciplinary measures to be decided by the course instructor: 1) verbal/written warning, 2) conference with department chair or dean, 3) reduction of test/course grade to an F. A student may subsequently be placed on probation or suspended or expelled and forced to withdraw from Northwestern as a result of academic dishonesty. Refer to the section in the Student Handbook concerning Academic Infractions and Sanctions for Academic Misconduct.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is representing the ideas, writing, or research of someone else as the student's own without acknowledgment. It is a form of cheating. The consequences for plagiarism include, at minimum, a failing grade on the assignment or in the class and possible university discipline. SEE PLAGIARISM HANDOUT FOR MORE.

Syllabus: ENGL 1010 – Schedule of Readings and Assignments

* This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor

** All reading assignments come from *Writing: A Guide for College and Beyond* by Lester Faigley.

Weeks I and II

Topics: Introduction to Class Policies and Syllabus; The Writer as Explorer; and, Writing in College

Reading: Chapters 1-4 and 9

Assignments: Course Contract, Discussion Boards #1-3, and Journals #1-2

Week III

Topics: Reflecting and Thinking Visually

Reading: Chapters 10 and 5

Assignments: Discussion Board #4, Journal #3, and Short Essay #1

Week IV

Topics: Observing and Creating Visuals

Reading: Chapters 11 and 5

Assignments: Discussion Board #5, Journal #4, and Short Essay #2

Week V

Topics: Informing and Designing for Print

Reading: Chapters 12 and 6

Assignments: Discussion Board #6, Journal #5, and Short Essay #3

Week VI-VII

Topics: Analyzing Texts and Writing Effective Paragraphs

Reading: Chapters 13 and 26

Assignments: Discussion Board #7, Journal #6, Short Essay #4, and **Midterm Exam**

Week VIII

Topics: Analyzing Causes and Writing Effective Sentences

Reading: Chapters 14 and 27

Assignments: Discussion Board #8, Journal #7, and Short Essay #5

Week IX

Topics: Evaluating and Avoiding Errors

Reading: Chapters 15 and 28

Assignments: Discussion Board #9, Journal #8, and Short Essay #6

Week X

Topics: Arguing for a Position and Understanding Punctuation and Conventions

Reading: Chapters 16 and 29

Assignments: Discussion Board #10, Journal #9, and Short Essay #7

Week XI

Topics: Proposal Arguments and Working as a Team

Reading: Chapters 17 and 8

Assignments: Discussion Board #11, Journal #10, and Short Essay #8

Week XII-XV (XIV—Thanksgiving Break!)

Topics: The Writer as Researcher and, Delivering Presentations

Reading: Chapters 18-25 and 7

Assignments: Discussion Boards #12-14 and **Long Essay**

Weeks XVI

Topics: Essay Exams and Portfolios

Reading: Appendices A and B

Assignments: Discussion Board #15, **Portfolio**, and **Final Exam**